

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application, Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 18, 22, 31, and 35-40 having been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 22-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter; and Claims 1-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Osawa et al. (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-132364, hereinafter “Osawa”) in view of Miyajima et al. (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2001-344349, hereinafter “Miyajima”).

In light of the rejections of Claims 22-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, Applicant has amended Claim 22 to recite a processor, according to the Office Action at page 2, lines 20-21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

In light of the several grounds of rejection on the merits, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 7, 9, 22, and 35-40 to clarify the claimed invention and thereby more clearly patentably define over the applied references.

Amended Claim 1 recites an electronic equipment including, in part, “a changing part configured to temporarily change the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in said setting part, in response to a change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment, when said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person.” Applicant respectfully submits that Osawa and Miyajima fail to disclose or suggest these features.

¹ The amendments to Claims 1, 7, 9, 22, and 35-40 find support at least in Figures 12, 20, 22, and 24 and in their accompanying text in the specification.

Osawa merely proposes increasing the control range, that is, relaxing the control condition, in order to prevent unwanted jam detection. The Office concedes that Osawa does not disclose “a changing part configured to temporarily change the maintenance range set in said setting part, in response to a change instruction, when said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person.”² To remedy this deficiency, the Office relies on Miyajima.

Miyajima includes a composition that “has a means to change automatically a password of account at the time of connecting with a network with which a device belongs at the time of starting of a device.”³ According to Miyajima, “[a] password is a security card system.”⁴ The Miyajima “method shall publish one changed in logic defined beforehand temporally, for example or two or more characters, or/and a number, and shall publish the same thing in the same logic also to the device side.”⁵

In other words, Miyajima describes changing a password. That is, Miyajima merely proposes canceling the access authority, that is, limiting the access authority of the service person. Applicant submits that Miyajima fails to disclose or suggest “a changing part configured to temporarily change the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in said setting part, in response to a change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment, when said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Thus, Osawa and Miyajima, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest “a changing part,” as recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over any proper combination of Osawa and Miyajima.

² Office Action at 15, ll. 4-7.

³ Miyajima, para. [0018].

⁴ Id.

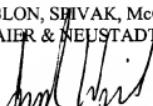
⁵ Id.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 7, 9, 22, and 35-40 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of Osawa and Miyajima for the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1 and for the more detailed features presented in these claims.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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